



PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Opens Opportunity Zone Application Process

Designation to aid communities in attracting private investment for business growth and housing construction

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Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Office of Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito

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BOSTON, MA — The Baker-Polito Administration opened the process for Massachusetts cities and towns to apply for federal designation as an Opportunity Zone. The program will serve as an economic development tool for municipalities and will incentivize investment in low income areas by offering favorable federal tax treatment for investors. The program is designed to drive increased investment in local opportunities, with the potential to support business growth, housing, and commercial construction.

“Our administration is committed to helping cities and towns in Massachusetts unlock opportunities for private investments and economic growth,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “This program will allow municipalities across the Commonwealth to work collaboratively with investors to pursue developments that address their individual community needs.”

The federal Opportunity Zone program empowers the governor to nominate up to 138 census tracts for designation as Opportunity Zones. The eligible tracts are located in 110 municipalities across Massachusetts – from Provincetown to North Adams, and New Bedford to Haverhill.

“Partnering with local communities is essential for success at the local, regional, and statewide level,” **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**. “We have engaged mayors, managers, and administrators over the past several weeks to develop a meaningful and practical approach to implementing the Opportunity Zone program that best aides our eligible cities and towns.”

To identify the tracts with investment and job growth potential, the Baker-Polito Administration facilitated conversations with leaders from the eligible municipalities to discuss the program, application process, and timeline. The [brief application](#), now available online through March 22, allows local governments to propose a single tract, or a set of tracts, for designation. Applications will be evaluated based on potential opportunities within the zone, planning work done at the local level to prepare for success, and the need of the application area and the surrounding community.

“My time in Chelsea, and my work since, has shown how important planning and preparation are to future success,” **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash**. “Communities that have done significant planning work, that have already identified opportunities, and that are ready to solicit and help direct private investment are most likely to see real results out of the Opportunity Zone Program – and out of all of our other economic development programs. I look forward to working with communities as they seek to realize growth plans through this program, and the rest of the economic development toolbox at our disposal.”

The Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development will collaborate with cities and towns with designated Opportunity Zone tracts to explore potential funding. Municipalities chosen for investment are responsible for drawing funds and capitalizing on the opportunities associated with the Opportunity Zone program. The Opportunity Zone program does not guarantee funding.

To ensure that regions across the state are able to use this tool, the Baker-Polito Administration will limit municipal applications to a maximum number of tracts:

- Communities with at least 15 eligible tracts may apply for designation for up to 20 percent of those tracts;

- Up to 10 percent of designations will be allocated to rural communities with populations lower than 10,000;
- All other communities may apply for designation for up to 2 of those tracts.

Information on tract eligibility can be found [here](#).

Eligible municipalities should [apply](#) online by the March 22 deadline. Designated tracts will be announced in late April.

Municipalities Eligible for Opportunity Zone Tract Designation:

Abington

Acushnet

Adams

Agawam

Amherst

Ashland

Athol

Attleboro

Barnstable

Beverly

Boston

Bourne

Braintree

Brewster

Bridgewater

Brockton

Brookfield

Brookline

Cambridge

Carver

Charlemont

Chelsea

Chicopee

Clarksburg

Clinton

Colrain

Dalton

Dartmouth

Dennis

Dracut

Dudley

Eastham

Easthampton

Erving

Everett

Fairhaven

Fall River

Falmouth

Fitchburg

Florida

Framingham

Gardner

Gloucester

Greenfield

Haverhill

Hawley

Heath

Hinsdale

Holbrook

Holyoke

Lawrence

Leominster

Lowell

Ludlow

Lynn

Malden

Marlborough

Mashpee

Medford

Melrose

Methuen

Middleborough

Milford

Millbury

Monroe

Montague

New Bedford

North Adams

North Attleborough

Northampton

Orange

Palmer

Peabody

Pepperell

Pittsfield

Plymouth

Provincetown

Quincy

Randolph

Revere

Rockland

Rowe

Salem

Sandwich

Saugus

Savoy

Somerset

Somerville

South Hadley

Southbridge

Spencer

Springfield

Stoughton

Taunton

Tisbury

Truro

Waltham

Ware

Wareham

Warren

Warwick

Webster

Wellfleet

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